Participation of Railway Employees and OBCs Organisation in Management

†1504. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any participation of Railway Employees, other Backward Classes Organisation at the Board Region and Division levels under the Participation of Railway Employees in Management (PREM) Scheme;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether other welfare organisations like IRPOF, FORA and All India Railway Security Force Association have been included therein;

(d) whether the Railway administration has formulated any transfer policy with regard to elected representatives of these welfare organisations; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and whether that policy is different from the transfer policy for representative of trade union; if so, the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) A group called "Participation of Railway Employees in Management (PREM)" was constituted as a forum for discussing policy issues concerning Railways, which are relevant to all sections of employees, such as Earnings, Economy in expenditure, Safety and Other organisational matters. The PREM Group is not a forum for discussions on Staff Grievances.

The OBC Association is a Welfare Association to look after the interests of specific sections of employees and thus cannot be equated to the Staff Federations like IRPOF (Indian Railway Promotee Officers' Association), FROA (Federation of Railway Officers' Association) and AIRPFA (All India RPF Association).

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) IRPOF, FROA and AIRPFA, besides AIRF and NFIR are the constituent of PREM group. The principle behind this arrangement is to include representatives from certain selected segments of Railwaymen in the discussions for formulation of future policies of the Railways.

(d) No, Sir. The normal rules for transfers apply to elected representatives of these organisations too.

(e) Question doesn't arise.

Conversion of Quilon to Chengottai Rail Line

1505. SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) at which stage the conversion of gauge from Quilon to Chengottai stands at present;

(b) whether Government would consider to commence the work from Quilon;

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(d) by when, the conversion work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Gauge conversion of Quilon to Shengottai is a part of gauge conversion of Quilon-Tirunelveli-Tiruchendur, Tenkasi-Virudhunagar sections. Final location survey to easc gradient and sharp curves suiting for BG has been completed between Quilon and Punalur and is in progress on Punalur-Shengottai-Tenkasi seciton. The physical work in this seciton would be taken up after finalisation of final location survey report.

(d) No target date has yet been fixed. The completion would depend upon availability of resources in the coming years.